

# Skirts, or No Skirts? That Is the Question! What Will the Answer Be?

## Best Women Swimmers Favor Agitation To Prohibit Daring Costumes Now Becoming Common At Waikiki

I saw her in a bathing suit,  
My joy description begs,  
I've never seen such lovely, slim  
And most bewitching arms.  
Yale Record.

"It is not the intention or the desire of the Women's Auxiliary of the Outrigger Club to force women swimmers to wear pleated skirts in the water, or to attempt to go beyond the region of good commonsense in asking for bathing suit reforms at Waikiki," said a member of the Auxiliary committee yesterday.

"Our stand is well understood by the greater number of the best women swimmers in the city, and they are with us in our agitation. All we are trying to do is to prohibit such costumes as are becoming too common and which appear to very many as being over the line of decency.

### Don't Be Absurd

"It is absurd to say that we would do anything to make swimming less easy for girls and women, because we are girls and women ourselves and are representing a club of six hundred women organized in order the better to enjoy the bathing at Waikiki. We have, besides the unanimous support of these six hundred women, the unanimous support of the board of governors of the Outrigger Club, representing six or seven hundred men swimmers, who certainly do not want to make swimming for women less pleasurable.

"These hip-high, bosom-low, skin-tight costumes affected by some women at the beach do not make better swimmers of them. A few years ago, when no girl appeared on the beach without a skirt, there were more women surfers than there are today. Skirts never bothered them, such skirts as we propose to see reintroduced."

### Models on Display

The agitation for the suppression of the more daring costumes now worn by women bathers is now attaining full headway and its effect is already apparent in some quarters. The drygood stores report a demand for skirted bathing suits and a decided slackening in the call for Annette Kellermans and their abbreviated little sisters. In the display windows of Sachs, Ehlers, Fernandes & Correa and Jordan's there are soon to be exhibitions of various styles of bathing suits on models, which will give the general public the opportunity of comparing the costumes the women object to with those classed as desirable swimming suits.

The various swimming instructors of the Outrigger, Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. are on record as favoring the elimination of the "Show Me" styles, at the same time making it plain that the substitute costumes must still be

## THE CURTAILED COSTUME

with many apologies to Kipling

"What are those women shouting for," said loungers on parade,  
"They ask for ampler bathing suits," the supervisor said;  
"What makes their cheeks so red, so red," said loungers on parade,  
"Because they're shocked and scandalized," the supervisor said.

O they've lately killed John Barley-corn,

You can hear the tipplers swear,  
Now they're castigating bathers for the costumes that they wear,

All the devotees of Neptune are prostrated with despair,  
For they're banning one-piece costumes in the mornin'.

"What makes those prudish ladies frown," said loungers on parade,

"Those naked limbs, those naked limbs," the supervisor said;

"What makes them turn their heads away," said loungers on parade,

"Those girlish forms in decollete," the supervisor said;

O they're killing of our freedom, you can hear the dead march play,

And we'll have to cut our costumes in the manner that they say;

There'll be sorrow on the beaches if those women have their way,  
For they're banning one-piece costumes in the mornin'.

—E. F. ATKINSON.

swimming costumes, permitting the freest use of the limbs and light enough for every practical purpose.

The women at work in this matter are anxious for all the criticism and suggestion that can be given, appreciating the fact that the matter is one in which a great deal of misunderstanding is to be expected, misunderstanding that can be easiest cleared away by a full and frank discussion.

The Advertiser is in receipt of a number of communications on this subject, some unsigned, which are promptly relegated to the wastepaper basket and others expressing the views of the writers, pro and con. The following are two dealing with the question:

### An Open Letter

To the good women of the "Women's Auxiliary" of the Outrigger Canoe Club:

It was with the deepest pleasure that the writer of these lines read the article in Wednesday's Advertiser in regard to our mermaids at the Beach at Waikiki and he most sincerely hopes that the endeavor of the good women of the "Women's Auxiliary" of the Outrigger Canoe Club to act as self-appointed guardians meets with the uttermost success.

The spacious and shady lanai at the Outrigger Canoe Club affords indeed the good women of the "Women's

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